THE ESCURIAL:

Or, a DESCRIPTION of that

Wonder of the vvorld

FOR

ARCHITECTURE and MAGNIFICENCE of *STRUCTURE*:

Built by K. *PHILIP* the IIᴰ of *Spain*, and lately Consumed by Fire.

VVritten in *Spaniſh* by *Franciſco de los Santos*, a Frier of the Order of *S. Hierome*, and an Inhabitant there.

Tranſlated into *Engliſh* by a Servant of the Earl of *Sandwich* in his Extraordinary Embaſſie thither.

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Escurial Vol. 1.

THE EPISTLE TO THE READER.

IT being the usual Fate of the greatest Works, as well as of the most eminent Persons, to be then most desired and talked of, when the world is deprived of them; and the generality of the most curious sort of Mankind loving even to tread upon that Ground which hath been most famous for any sort of renowned Antiquity; I make no question, but though (by this Lamentable Accident of Fire, which of (late hath happened in Spain) *the most Magnificent and Augusst Pile of Building on the face of the Earth hath been ruined and destroyed; yet that most that ever heard of it, by this sad occasion, will talk more of it than ever before; and*

many perchance as shall have opportunity of travelling into those Parts, will view with no less astonishment, the Ruines of this Royal House, than they would with curiosity survey the Place where old Rome *or the famous ancient* Carthage *stood. Judging therefore, that most of those who never had opportunity of seeing this so renowned Fabrick, may have some sort of liking to hear a Description of it: 'Tis partly to satisfie them, and partly to gratifie some* Friends *that have desired it of me, I have translated and taken out of a good* Spanish *Author as yet alive, and well known to the right Honourable the Earl of* Sandwich, *in his late Embassie Extraordinary to the Present King* Charles *the Second (which his Lordship executed with so much Honour, Industry and Success) this brief ensuing Description: the which, being not so sufficiently full as to contain divers things, which are not unworthy of*

our

our knowledge, I have thought good to premiſe ſome few Particulars in this Epiſtle; as Firſt, Touching the Name of this Extraordinary Edifice. 2. *Who it was that* founded it. *And* 3. *What moved the* Founder, *or gave him occaſion to* erect Royal Fabrick. *As to the firſt; Though this* Stately Houſe *it ſelf be called the* Eſcurial, *yet the true Name of it is the* Royal Monaſtery *of S.* Lawrence, *near the* Eſcorial: *For the* Eſcorial, *or* Eſcurial, *as it is commonly called, is a little Village cloſe by it, which is ſaid to take its Name* a ſcoria ferri, *from* iron droſs; *here having been in ancient time great ſtore of* Iron-works *in this place. The* Founder *of it was* Philip *the Second; who for the enſuing Reaſons, firſt built and dedicated it unto S.* Lawrence, *his own great Saint, Famous for his Martyrdom upon a* Grid-iron *in* Spain; *in faſhion of which, this* Houſe *is made; and then gave it to the*

Jero-

Jeronymites, *or Friers of the Order of* S. Hierome. *The reason of the first, was because on* this Saints Day, *being the tenth of* August, *he obtain'd at the* great Battel *of* S. Quintins, *a memorable* Victory *against the* French; *and* there *made his* Vow *to erect* this House *in honour of* him. *The chief* inducement *to bestow it on the* Hieronymites *or* Friers *of the Order of* S. Hierome, *rather than any* other, *was for his Father* Charles *the Fifth's sake, who had a* peculiar Affection *to that Order, and made his Retirement* (*when he had* Surrendred *the Empire to his Brother* Ferdinand, *and the* Crown *of* Spain *to his* Son) *into a* Monastery *of theirs, called the* Monastery *of* San Geronimo de Juste; *where he likewise ended his* Dayes *in the* Year 1558. *How the* Dismal Fire (*that as 'tis said, hath totally destroyed this* Royal *and* Magnificent Palace, Convent & Colledge (*for*

such

ſuch you will find it to be in the following Diſcourſe) *firſt began, is ſomething* uncertain, *though it is* generally believed *it proceeded from a* Rocket, *or ſuch like* piece *of* Fire work, *which on a night of ſome* great Solemnity *(for then they commonly uſe* them) *did accidentally fall amongſt the Wood-work on the top of the* Roof *of the* Houſe, *which moſt of it being* Pine, *doth quickly* take, *and is* exceeding combuſtible; *but the* beginnings *of ſuch* Misfortunes *are for the moſt part* obſcure, *though the* ſad Effects *have* too much light *in them, as by* woful Experience *we have* ſeen *in the* Dreadful Fire *of our own* Metropolis. *How* conſiderable *a* loſs *this* famous piece *of* Architecture *is, let any man judge by the Subſequent* Deſcription.

Although

The Eſcurial;

OR,

A Deſcription of the Wonder of the world for Architecture and Magnificence of Structure, Built by King Philip *the Second of* Spain; *and lately Conſumed by Fire.*

ALthough in a former Diſcourſe we have particularly ſhewed the principal parts of this prodigious Piece of Architecture, and the Ornamentals belonging to it; having uſed the terms of Art, for the ſake of thoſe that are underſtanding of it; and reccounted all things as in reality they are, with all clearneſs poſſible, with that diſpoſition, diſtribution and meaſure which they bear; yet notwithſtanding all this, there are ſome perſons which love not ſuch tedious Diſcourſes; and eſpecially in things of this nature, which although they are pleaſant in the ſeeing, yet they are troubleſome in the reading: large Deſcriptions of them, by reaſon of the obſcurity of the terms, which in ſuch grand Fabricks repeated ſo often, always difficult, and ordinarily ſtrange, that even I my ſelf am weary to write them, although I am never ſatisfied with ſeeing this great Wonder, that occaſions me to make uſe of them: There are others, that at once deſire

to know the greatneſs and diſtinct parts of it, and with this reſt ſatisfied, being of opinion, that the goodneſs and rarity of it lies in the quantity and extent, rather than in the quality or worth; and the largeneſs of it is more pleaſing to them, than its excellency, which they underſtand not: Or if they do underſtand it, they deſire to know whether there be much of that kind which moſt pleaſes their Fancies; at coming to ſee this Convent, encountring ſo many beautiful Cloiſters, they deſire to know the number of them; they mind the beautiful diſpoſition of the Lights; they are very attentive on the Pictures and Statues; they have an infinite deſire to know the number of them all; and the great noiſe that that makes, pleaſeth them moſt, and fills them with admiration; neither is this any ill humor where every thing is ſo good as here it is. For this reaſon I have reſolv'd, in this Diſcourſe to ſatisfie thoſe that are of this temper, reducing to an exact number as near as I can, the parts of this Noble Fabrick; not only thoſe mentioned in my former Deſcription, but likewiſe ſuch as were paſſed over in ſilence, or were but in general mentioned, being not of principal Concern, although every thing is worth taking notice of; and giving likewiſe a brief account of the Ornaments and Furniture; together with which, making a ſummary Rehearſal of what hath been ſaid before, for rubbing up the memories of ſuch Artiſts that ſhall read it; and for the delight of thoſe that are not ſo; to whom though they read it never ſo often, the Terms of Architecture are as difficult as *Arabick*. I promiſe to be moſt faithful in this, as I have been in all the reſt; for it would be an infinite wrong to this Noble Edifice, not to relate whatſoever it contains; or to think that it ſtands in need of any Additions to heighten its greatneſs;

neſs; no leſs than it would be to my own Profeſſion, not to ſpeak the Truth. It ſtands as a living Teſtimony, and will for many Ages (here the Frier was no true Prophet) by which any man that ſhall doubt, may confirm himſelf in the truth of the things we here relate; and may in part ſee it in the very Print of the ſame. Paſſing by therefore (that which I have related in the beginning of my former Deſcription) the Motives which the moſt Catholick King *Philip* the Second had to build this wonderful Structure, and dedicate it to the Invincible Martyr of *Spain*, S. *Lawrence*, his Protector, and Saint or Devoto; and to give it to the Order of S. *Hierom*; paſſing by likewiſe the Election of the Situation of it, in the Kingdom of *Toledo*, ſeven Leagues diſtant from *Madrid* Weſtward; the Platform of it, a large and vaſt Square; the ſides of which contain 2980 feet; and the Majeſtick incloſure of the Noble Places and Gardens which compaſs it about, and the Materials of which it is built, which is a white kind of Stone, with darkiſh gray ſpots in it, which beautifie it much; although in many parts of it there is Marble and Jaſper in abundance, and other Stones of moſt perſpicuous politeneſs; as alſo the form of the Fabrick, which is all the good Orders of Architecture, *Tuſcan*, *Dorick*, *Ionick*, *Corinthian*, and *Compoſite*. Though indeed the moſt of it is *Dorick* and *Ionick*; and paſſing alſo the four principal Fachadas or Sides, and the three ſtately Gates which it hath on the Weſt ſide.

I proceed to tell you that within this large Quadrangle, there are contained 13 Cloyſters, of moſt Beautiful Architecture, and of great extent; all which, except one, on the Backſide of the great Chappel, and other two within the principal Cloyſter of the Palace, *Cloyſters.*

may be counted from the Draught or Print of the Houſe, *viz.* 5 on the South, & 5 on the North, which, with other 2, without the Quadrangle, make in all 15: the moſt of them of three Orders of Arches and Walks, others of 2, and others of 1. In which are to be ſeen ſo many Windows as amount to more than 680.

Courts 9. Beſides which, there are 9 Courts, amongſt which, the *Portico*, or that which you firſt enter into, is the moſt Royal and Stately one in *Europe*.

Turrets. The Turrets which are raiſed upon the Corners of this Square, and on the Croſſings of the Cloyſters, and on the Church, which may obliterate the memory of the ancient Pyramids, ſo celebrated by Antiquity, are in number 9. Amongſt which, is reckoned that famous Cupula or Turret on the Church, 315 foot high from the Ground. The Globes or Balls that are placed on the top of them, upon which the Fanes move, all of Gilt Metal, are of 5 foot diameter; and that on the top of the Church of ſeven foot, inſomuch that a man of good Stature, may ſtand upright in it with both Arms extended out.

Windows & Doors. The Windows which are ſeen on the outſide, before you enter the houſe, are 1110; diſtributed with much Uniformity & Order; many of them with whole Balconies, others with Breaſt high all of Iron, and well Glazed, which gives a great Luſtre and Majeſty to the Fabrick. Thoſe which are to be ſeen within in the great Court or *Portico*, Cloyſters, Courts, Towers, and other places, even ro the top of the Houſe, are 1578. So that the whole number of them doth come unto 2688. with the Shuts of them, of a pleaſing green colour, both for the preſervation of them, and Beauty of the Edifice. If to theſe we add the Windows of the Out-Offices, they amount unto few leſs than 4000. The Doors reckoned after the ſame manner, are in number 8000. The outward Gates in the four ſides of the Houſe are

16,

16, entring through any of which, you ſeem to come into a Labyrinth; eſpecially in the Palace, where by the multiplicity of them, the Multiplicity of them, the cunningeſt man alive may eaſily loſe himſelf.

The *Zaquanes* or Portals at the entrance of the principal Gates, & ſome others at the entrance of the noble Apartments are 14, all of very conſiderable Architecture.

The Fountains in the Center of the Cloyſters and Courts, for the refreſhment of the whole Houſe, the water of which is carried through the vaſt extent of it, together with thoſe in the Church, Gardens, Offices, and all places where there is occaſion for them, come to about fourſcore and ſix; together with eleven Ciſterns; that it is a doubt whether *Madrid* it ſelf, though very plentifully watered, hath ſo many or not. *Stairs.*

The ſeveral Stairs to go up and down, and to paſs to and again in the Cloyſters and other Apartments, are about 80. amongſt which, there are ſome of admirable Invention, and very many of a great number of Steps, very pleaſant and eaſie to aſcend.

The Galleries, Halls, Chambers, Cells, Offices, & other Apartments, are ſo many, that it ſeems impoſſible to count them; however, I ſhall do my endeavour to give a ſufficient accompt of them, reckoning for the eaſier proceeding by the difference of Habitations in this Fabrick, *viz.* it contains one Convent, two Colledges, the one of Religious, the other of Seculars, and the Palace Royal. All which are ſo capacious, and ſo well furniſhed within themſelves, both of common and particular Rooms, that the ſeveral ſorts of Inhabitants, though very numerous, find excellent accommodation in them.

The King with his whole Houſe, the Queen, and all the Royal Family in the Palace; and yet it is known that the Train which they ordinarily bring with them,

them gives care enough to the moſt populous Cities to entertain them.

There are about 150 Religious in the Convent, 50 more in the Colledge, and as many more Seculars in the Seminary, either Graduates or under Graduates, from whence may be inferr'd what Chambers, Lodgings, Cells, &c. are required for ſo great a number of inhabitants, but there are moreover and above in the Palace, beſides the Rooms of State for the Noble men and Ladies, in the Kings, Queens, and Infanta's apartments, eight Galleries, beſides lodging rooms.

Galleries in the Palace 8.

In the Convent and Colledges, there are likewiſe large ſtately Roomes of this kind, but differenced by their names, occaſioned either from buſineſs done in them, or things that are there laid up. There are three Capitulos or Chapter houſes, three Libraries, five great Halls, ſix Dormitories, three Halls in the Hoſpital, and four others which ſerve for divers offices; all very large and equall as it were for length and breadth. The which with divers others for walks and entertainments make in all thirty.

In the convent and Colledge.

Oratories.

The Oratories and Chappels which are (without the principal Church) diſtributed through theſe ſeveral habitations, counting with them that of the old Church and that of the offices of the palace, are ſeven of excellent Symmetry and Elegance.

The Refectories or Eating places in the Convent, Colledge, Seminaries, &c. are in all nine, very large and neat.

Refectories 9.

Infirmerias.

The Infirmerias or places to receive the Sick, are in all five, with great variety of Chambers in them, placed with ſuch reſpect to their Chappels, that the Sick may hear Maſs as they lye in their beds.

The

The Botica, or Apothecaries apartment hath five or six admirable rooms, beſides others, which make of it a large houſe.

The Hoſpedarias or places for entertainment of Strangers are two, the one is within the houſe with large dining rooms, and decent Chambers for entertainment of Strangers, the which are attended by young Youths that are Students; the other is without, with all manner likewiſe of accommodation. *Hoſped.*

The Kitchins of the Palace Convent and Colledges are in all nine, and as many houſes of Office. *Cocin.*

The Rooms which are under the houſe, by whoſe ſtrong Arches the whole is ſuſtained, are above forty, large and lightſome, and of very beautiful Architecture, and that ſerve for many offices, as the Caterers, Plate-keepers, &c. There are others likewiſe for diſtribution of the Fountain Pipes, which are divided up and down in theſe Cellars, where there are likewiſe eleven Ciſterns, the leaſt of which holds 10000 quarts of Water. *Cellars.*

The Lofts and little rooms on the houſe top all covered with Slat, and joyn'd in form of a Grid Iron. *Lofts.*

All theſe parts are included in this prodigious building, beſides the Church and *Sacriſtia*, or Repoſitory of Reliques and Sacredotal Veſtments, where there are many more of great extent and amplitude. For the Church which is in length 374 feet, and 230 in breadth, includes the great Chappel, the Quire, the under Quire, divers other Chappels, the Antiquires, and fortyeight Altars and other pieces, which of themſelves alone are ſufficient objects of admiration. *Church.*

It hath ſeven extraordinary great and beautiful Iſles, in the top of which are ſeen twenty ſix Arches, and over them large empty ſpaces, in like manner, as there is under the Floor of it.

The

Sacriſtia. The *Sacriſtia* being very large and capacious, conſiſts of eight ſtately rooms, beſides divers others very conſiderable and great, for the uſe of thoſe that miniſter about them, which are indeed but all requiſite for this wonder of the World.

Theſe are the parts ſo far as I can reckon them of this miraculous Fabrick; the whole Machine contains theſe Rooms aud apartments in it, and to tell in one word the Multitude, and High grandure of them, if one would go through all of them, and the whole ſpace contain'd in the Houſe and Offices belonging to it, it would take up four whole days to doe it, it being a journey of thirty three meaſured leagues, or ninety nine miles, ſo vaſt and large is this curious piece. I come now to the number of the Ornaments of Furniture, which exceedingly beautifies and enriches this ſtately Edifice.

Statues. I ſay therefore that the ſtatues which are in it which may well compare for beauty and Grandure with the moſt celebrated *Coloſſus*'s, of the Ancients are in all fifty and one, thirteen of Stone, and thirty eight of mettal, richly guilt, and almoſt all of them much bigger rhen the life, ſome of them two or three times bigger, which give an exceeding great Majeſty to the Frontiſpiece, the Portico or firſt great Court, the Church and principal Cloyſter, into which they are diſtributed, the names of the Maſters which wrought them are down in the annexed Catalogue.

Other leſs pieces, as Crucifixes, Pictures of St. *Jerome* of St. *John Baptiſt*, and likewiſe of our Lady, which are placed in divers Cells, and other parts of the Houſe of ineſtimable Sculpture (without taking notice now of thoſe in the Church) doe amount unto fifty, wrought on divers materials, even to Porphery it ſelf.

The

The Pictures in Oyle colours and in *Freſco* which ennoble and give a kind of awfull Majeſty to the ſeveral places before mentioned, are very many, I ſhall give you the ſumm of thoſe that are of greateſt worth and value, they are in General 1622 Pictures of the life and Hiſtory, all in oyle colours, diſtributed up and down the whole houſe; and although they be not all of them of the rareſt and greateſt value, yet there is not one of them which is not very well worth our admiration. I reckon not at all of the more ordinary ſort which ſerve onely to cover the walls. The greater part of them are originalls, and many of them of the moſt famous and celebrated Maſters, as of *Maſacio*, *Rafaell*, *Sancio*, *Urbino*, *Leonardo de vinci*, *Titian*, *Bordonan*, *Sebaſtian del piombo*, *Andreas del Sarto*, *Paulo Veroneſe*, and *Carolos Veroneſe*, his Son, *Jacobo Robuſto* or *Tintoretto*, *Baſan*, *Geronimo Muciano*, *Parmeſano*, *Antonio Acorego* or *Corregio*. *Federico Barroſi*, *Peregrin*, *Guido Boloneſe*, *Vandike*, *Ruben*, *Joſeph de Ribera* or *Spannolette*, *Juan Fernandes Mudo*, *Luqueto*, *Boſco*, *Albert Duter*, *Michael Cuſin*, *Dominico Greco*, *Lavinia Fontana*, *Romulo*, *Bartolomeos Carducho*, and many other excellent hands which have made themſelves famous in Hiſtory.

Pictures in Oyl colours and Freſco.

Maſters.

There are other Originals of Authors leſs known, or whoſe names are altogether unknown, moſt of them very good, many excellent well, inſomuch that they give occaſion to enquire of the Maſters of them, whoſe names it is great pity that they are not known.

There are others which are Copies of great pieces of the aforementioned Maſters, & alſo of *Michael Angelo* of very great value, which thoſe that are underſtanding of them, ſay, there is no want of Originals where thoſe are placed.

There are others that are Pictures of Popes and Kings, and perſons famous in all faculties and learning, in number 256.

There are other pieces of Landskip, Fruitery, &c. almoſt innumerable, which give a great deal of beautiful and pleaſant variety. It may ſuffice to tell you that there is not a Cell, a Chamber, an ordinary Room, in which there is not found of theſe delightful ſorts of Ornaments, out of *Italy*, *Germany*, *France*, *Flanders*, and many which were done in *Spain* incomparably well.

As to the Paint in Freſco, or upon the bare walls, there is very much of it, and of the beſt in Europe of this ſort of Paint. There are 12 great pieces in the houſe, beſides Hiſtories 134. ſo large and great, that they include in them divers others. The Painting of the Glory of the Quire, and of the Principal Cloyſter of the Library, contains at leaſt 250. The workmanſhip of *Peregrin de Peregrini*, *Lucas Cauxioſo* or *Luqueto*, *Granelo* and *Fabricio*, Sons of *Bergamaſco*, *Franciſco Urbina*, *Romulo*, *Caravajali*, and *Barroſo*. There are 14 apartments, the Floors of which ſeem to be as it were painted with the variety of white and coloured Marble, of moſt ſplendid and curious work, as is to be ſeen in the principal Cloyſter, both below and above ſtairs, in the Capitulos or Chapter-houſes, in the Priors Cell, in the Library, in the Church, in the Quire, and Antequire, in the Sacriſtia, in the great Chappel, the firſt and ſecond Table within the Rejas or Grates, which are of divers the pureſt Jaſpers, and in the Oratories of the Kings which all appear like Chriſtall, but with a thouſand varieties of colour. There are other Ornaments of Furniture which very much beautifie and ennoble the ſeveral Apartments, as the Stations for books

books, the books themſelves, the Eſcritoios or Accommodations for writing, Tables, and ſuch like things as well in the Library as in the great rooms of the palace, and the Fryers Cells, all very well worth the taking notice of.

The Stands for the Books in the Grand Library are made of ſeven ſeveral ſorts of wood in-laid, of the *Indies* and of *Spain*, *viz.* the *Caoba*, *Acana*, *Ebony*, *Cedar*, *Orange*, *Pine and Wall-Nut-Tree*. Thoſe of the other Libraries, although they are not all out ſo rich, yet are exceeding handſome. *Library.*

In the diviſions that are made for the books, there are 18000 Volumes, of all Subjects, nobly bound and guilt alike, inſomuch that the Libraries appear both Rich and Beautiful. In the Principal Library are kept as Reliques of great eſteem, eight Manuſcripts of Saints, and another in which the Goſpel was written in Letters of Gold, in the time of the Emperour *Conradus*. As likewiſe divers other works of great Veneration, many of them Original Mannſcripts if not all, for ſo they be for their great antiquity. *Books.*

Three or four ſeveral ſorts of Paper uſed by ſeveral Nations in the very infancy of Writing. Beſides thoſe Books we have already recounted, there are in the Fryers Cells and other places a very great number which were left by *Phillip* II. or bought ſince, in all ſixteen thouſand, inſomuch, that reckoning theſe, together with thoſe of the Libraries, they come unto thirty four thouſand in the whole houſe, amongſt which there are to be found the beſt ſort of Writers both Ancient and Modern.

In the Church there are five noble Grates of Braſs, in the doors of it, and thirty ſeven diviſions of Balconies, Corredores and Niches diſtributed through the *Grates i theCh*

extent of the walks, and in other parts; all with Ballauſters, Globes, or Croſſes of Braſs, and exceeding beautiful on the outſide,

Altars. There is likewiſe another ſort of Ornaments and Riches to be admired, which would weary one to count, which ſurpriſe the ſight, and move to devotion and reverence, aſtoniſhing and elevating the affections of thoſe that ſee them; There are 48 Altars, and as many fair pieces of Imagery, very uniform, and covered with Gold, placed in their Chappels and Niches, with Pictures of exceeding worth reckoned in the number of thoſe we before mentioned.

High Altar. The High Altar is as Chieftain to all the reſt, 93 feet in height, and forty nine in breadth, which fills all that Grand Chappel which it ſtands in with the luſtre, of the Jaſpers and Metall covered with Gold, with 4 Orders of Pillars, which make in all 18. in which is to be ſeen the excellency of Architecture, in the *Dorick*, *Ionick*, *Corinthian* and *Compoſite* Orders, with fifteen Statues of extraordinary greatneſs, all of Mettal laid over with Gold, the work of *Pompeo Leoni*, and other 13 little ones in the *Cuſtodia*, or the place where the conſecrated Hoſt is kept, which with ſome others intombed on the ſides, makes the whole number in this great Chappel to amount unto thirty eight, beſides eight Noble pieces of *Peregrin*, and *Federico Zucaro*. The Stupendious work of the *Cuſtodia* done by *Jacobo Trezo*, all of it of the moſt pretious Stones of Spain, and Mettals guilt, with eight Pillars work'd and poliſhed with Diamonds, the nobleneſs of the material, being a bloud coloured Jaſper, admitting of no other inſtrument or tool to touch it. Every one of theſe Pillars coſt ten thouſand Ducats, and in all fourſcore thouſand. But the moſt pretious Jewel of all, is, the leſſer *Cuſtodia*, within

within the other. The doors of the *Sagrario*, or *Sanctum Sanctorum*, are of the fineſt Jaſper, and brighteſt Braſs, and the place it ſelf a moſt Heavenly piece. The two Royal Eſcutcheons which are on the ſides of the Chappel, over the Kings Tombs, are all of Jaſper, very rich and pretious, with very ſignificant deviſes. The 40 Altars which are diſperſed up and down the Body of the Church, beſides divers others, have ſeveral changes of Frontalls or Ornamental Coverings, for every day if need require, and for the ſeveral Feſtivals and Holydays there are ſeveral ſuits of Attirements uniform in colour and faſhion, and for this purpoſe they are kept, ſome in the *Sacriſtia*, and others in Cheſts neer unto the Altars.

The high Altar, and the two Altars called the Altars *de Reliquias* or Reliques, are richeſt in this ſort. Every one of them having fifty ſeveral changes of exceeding great worth, of the richeſt Brocados and wrought Silks. The Candleſticks which admirably grace all the Altars, are in number 250, ſome of Braſs gilded, others of Silver, and others of Chriſtal. Beſides which every Altar hath one of a great number of branches, which are lighted immediately before the Conſecration at Maſs, they are in all 40.

The Croſſes which are placed upon theſe Altars, with their Crucifixes of Braſs and Silver are in number one hundred, and that which is the Grandure of all theſe Altars, is, that they are all conſecrated, inſomuch that all the Tables of them are Altars, and every one of them hath placed within it a Box of Reliques, of the ſame Saint to whom the Altar is Dedicated.

To denote that the whole Church is conſecrated, there are twelve Croſſes ſet up in ſeveral places of it, where the Unction was made at Conſecration, one of which is of the moſt beautiful Jaſper, upon a White Marble,

Marble, which is a great Ornament unto it. There are ſix mighty Lamps all of Silver, hung up in the large Iſles of the Church, of moſt curious work, which give Light unto them all; and in the principal Iſle are placed fourteen great Stands for Wax-Torches, of a Metal Silver'd over, of great Magnificence and Luſtre. When all theſe are lighted together with the Candles upon the Altars, and Luminaries placed in all the more eminent parts of the Church, as they uſe to do at the firſt Reception of Kings and Queens, and other Solemn Occaſions and Feſtivals, it looks like a very Heaven upon Earth.

Organs. The Organs throughout the whole Church are in number 8; which both beautifie it with their outward Luſtre, the Lofts being all gilt; and enliven it with their Divine Melody. There is one all of Silver, extraordinary rich, which is plaid upon every *Corpus Chriſti* Day.

Bells. The Bells of the Towers are in all 59. forty of which are in very tunable Chimes, and have their Keys like Organs, which makes a pleaſant Muſick to play upon them.

Reliques. The Reliques which are kept in the ſeveral *Relicarios*, or Places appointed for them, which are very Majeſtick and Auguſt, are ſo many, that even from our Saviour, and the Bleſſed Virgin, there are Reliques of all the Saints celebrated in the Church, except S. *Joſeph*, and S. *John* the Evangeliſt; yea, there are even to the very Prophets before the coming of Chriſt into the world, the Boxes and Veſſels in which with great veneration they are kept in number 515, ſome of Gold, ſome of Silver, ſome of Chryſtal, and other Precious Stones.

For Singing of Divine Praiſes in the Quire, the proper work of the Sons of S. *Hierom*, in imitation of the moſt

moſt Noble Angelical Spirits, there are 216 Books, in their proper Stands, placed in the Anti-Quire, of admirable proportion and beauty: It is the beſt ſort of Library for this Service, that hath been ſeen either in *Spain*, or any other place; the Stations for the Books are of the ſame Wood as the Seats of the Quire; and thoſe of the ſeveral richeſt ſorts like them we before mentioned in the principal Library. The number of the Seats is 128. in a double Row: The Divine Service which is here celebrated, is more raviſhing than whatever is to be ſeen in the Houſe. The Faciſtor or great Desk on which ſome Books are placed, is of all the rareſt ſorts of Wood, and of Braſs gilded, ſupported by four Pedeſtals of the ſame Metal, very admirable, ſtately and beautiful, and in this kind, the very beſt in the World.

Ornam. in the Sacretta.

The Ornaments and Riches which are in the *Sacriſtia* or Veſtry, in order to Divine Service, are very numerous, kept in forty Diviſions of Cheſts and Drawers of the ſame Wood, as is afore-mentioned in the Quire, the bottoms of which are all of them Cedar for the incorruptibility of it.

Brocado-*Veſtments*

The *Brocado*-Veſtments, and others of Silk, and Cloath of Gold and Silver, are 213. of all varieties of Colours.

Caſullas.

The *Caſulla's*, or Veſtments for the Prieſts to ſay Maſs in, belonging to all the Altars, are above twelve hundred; the *Dalmaticks* to be for the ſame uſe, are one hundred: And when we mention here all the Altars, we mean, not only thoſe of the Church, but alſo all the reſt generally through the Houſe, which are in number 70.

Mangas.

The *Mangas* worn in repreſentation of our Saviours Bonds, and uſed in Proceſſions, are ſeven and twenty.

The

The fine Linnen employed in Divine Services for Surplices, Roquets, Altar-Cloaths, Towels, *&c.* though exceeding much, yet is never more than what is ſpent on neceſſity for Sacred Uſes; and ſtill in plain truth, there is not ſo rich and plentiful a Furniture to be found in any other place beſides this in the world.

Utenſils for the Celebration of Divine Service.

The Utenſils and pieces of Gold, employed on the ſame occaſions, are not many, but of the richeſt, and moſt coſtly ſort in *Spain*, as a Chalice, a Cuſtodia, a Breſt-plate for the Prior, which he wears when he celebrates the Maſs, and two others of great worth. Of Silver there is a great Service, yet nothing but what there is occaſion for: Beſides the Croſſes and Candleſticks before mentioned, there are fourſcore Chalices, 2 Cuſtodia's, 8 Incenſario's, or Utenſils to burn Incenſe in; ſeveral Fountains, perfuming Pans, and the like; in all 24. The chief of the Grandeur of which, conſiſts in the Rarity of the Workmanſhip or Faſhion. Beſides, there are four great *Cereales* or Torch-bearers which are uſed on the chief Holidays, and other four, which are uſed at the Celebration of the Hours, or Commeration of the Kings and Queens; there are 24 which the Students in the Seminary carry in Proceſſion on *Corpus* Day, and *Thurſday* and *Friday* in the Holy week; all which are worth admiration: And together with the Riches which are ſeen in the *Relicario's*, or Repoſitories of Relicks of the ſame nature and quality, renders it a Treaſure worthy this great place, which being exactly and judiciouſly viewed, appears ſo plentifully and Royally provided, that conſidering likewiſe the vaſt number and perfection of the parts of this eminent Structure, together with the Ornaments and Riches it contains; the Sum that the whole coſt, being ſix Millions of Ducats, ſeems but little. Here I had thought

to

to have laid down the greatneſs of many other Particulars, which occur in this Fabrick, eſpecially in the Materials of it, which would be a work too tedious, and over-curious, as to count the quantity of Lime, Mortar, the Millions of Loads of Wood, the infinite number of Slates, Marble, *&c.* I ſhall only in general ſay, that if theſe things were but particularly ſeen heaped up in their kinds and ſorts, you would think there were enough to build a fair City. In the Iron-work only, *viz.* in Locks and Nails, without counting Balconies, I have found out there was ſpent one hundred twenty nine thouſand fourſcore and three *Arrobas*, every *Arroba* containing five and twenty pound. Of the very Keys there are 50 *Arrobas*, or more. Of other Metals, as of Lead, Tin, Steel, Copper, there is a moſt vaſt quanrity; for of Lead only, there is found above Ninety nine thouſand and thirty *Arrobas*, partly on the Church, and partly on the principal Cloyſters, which are covered with Sheets of this Metal; as alſo in divers other parts amongſt the Slat-works. The Wire for the Net-work of the Windows weighs above a thouſand *Arrobas*; and if here we ſhould reckon the Glaſs-work of all the Windows, it would be a vaſt Count; for the immenſity of this is one of the grand Beauties of this Houſe.

The number of people concern'd in this great work, is very difficult to be told; for beſides the multitude of Maſters, Overſeers, Hirers of Workmen, other Officers and Day-Labourers, which were employed upon the very Place and Work, ſome in Cranes, ſome in Wheels, ſome on Scaffolds on high, to diſtribute and place the Materials, as Stone, Wood, Mortar, *&c.* there being of all ſorts uſed at the ſame time: There was, I ſay, beſides theſe, an infinite num-

ber of all kinds of Artificers dispersed round about in the Fields; where you might see Smiths, Carpenters, Stone-cutters, and all sorts imaginable, with their Huts and Tents for their Lodgings, and defence from Weather, not unlike a very numerous Army. Others that work'd within doors, Limning, Painting, Gilding, Embroidering, augmented likewise the number, no less than those which were employed in Door-work, Window-work, Chest-work, Seat-work, and fitting of places for Books to stand in, and that wrought in all sort of Inlaid Work; besides those that wrought in Metals, as melting the Organs, casting the Bells, Balconies, and running the Sheets of Lead, and the like; that by this may be guessed how great a number were required to this Work. The Carters likewise, and those that had the Conduct of the Carriages, that brought Stone ready wrought, and Statues of that prodigious bigness, that could not be stirred with less than twenty yoke of Oxen; yea, sometimes forty. In all the Offices and Employments there were Proveditors and Overseers to hasten and encourage the Workmen in their respective Tasks, that every thing went on without Noise or Trouble. Others assisted at the management of the Wheels and Engines turned by water, for Plaistering, Sawing and Polishing; others in Rope, Cable-making, and such like work; and yet besides all these, there were employed in many other places persons of diverse Nations.

In the Jasper-Quarries, not far from a place called *Burgo de Osma*, the *Spaniards* and *Italians* hewed out, and wrought that sort of Stone for this Building.

In *Madrid* the *Custodia* was made, and part of the *Retable*, whither there were flocked together a great many Masters and famous Artificers.

In *Guadalaarra*, in *Cuenca*, and other parts, were made a great quantity of Rejas or Grates, and Balconies; beſides thoſe that were wrought upon the place.

In *Zaragoſa* were caſt the principal Grates of Braſs for the Church of the *Antepechos* or Balcony-work that belongs to the ſame.

In the Mountains *de Filabres* was got the white Marble; as alſo in thoſe *de Las Navas*, and in *Eſtremoz*; and near unto *Granada*, on the Banks of the River *Xenil*, in the *Sierras*, or Mountains of *Arazena*, and divers other parts, the gray, green, red, black, bloud-coloured, and of a thouſand other ſorts of Colours.

The *Pinares*, or Pine-woods of *Cuenca*, *Balſaid*, of *Segovia*, *Quexegal de Avila*, and *de Las Navas*, were peopled with Work-men, who with Hatchets and Axes, were continually felling the talleſt Pine-trees, and working of them, ſo that the Woods did always eccho with their Blows, and the noiſe of their Saws.

In *Florence* and *Milan* were caſt the great Statues of Braſs.

In *Toledo* were made the Lamps, Candleſticks, Stands for Torches, Croſſes and Cenſers. In *Flanders* were made other ſorts of Candleſticks of Braſs, ſome very vaſt ones, others of a middling ſort, and others leſs, and great ſtore of fine Linnen curiouſly wrought for the Ornament of the Cells.

In the very Nunneries, throughout all parts, were found very many perſons who were daily employed in making all ſorts of curious Needle-work, and a thouſand ſorts of ſeveral Ornaments for the enriching of this Royal Fabrick. So that a great part of this work was ſcattered up and down throughout all *Spain*, *Italy*, and *Flanders*; inſomuch that it is impoſſible to reduce to certain number the Labourers concerned in it.

This wonder of Architecture was thirty and eight years in Building, *viz.* twenty four to the laying of the laſt ſtone, and fourteen in the furniſhing and enriching of it with all its Adornments, even to the death of King *Philip* the Second, which happened in the Year 1598.

In this place it were proper to add ſomething touching the *Pantheon*, or Burying place of the Kings of *Spain*, ſituated under the High Altar of the great Church; but in regard that hath eſcaped the Fury of the Flames, and may ſtill invite Forreigners and Travellers as yet to viſit it, there is leſs need at preſent to give an exact Deſcription of it. The Name of *Pantheon* was given unto it in imitation of that which at *Rome* is called *Il Templo di Santa Maria La Rotunda*; anciently dedicated to all the Heathen Gods, and with more reaſon now (as being founded on the Holy Scripture) that name may be allowed to ſo ſtately a Dormitory of Chriſtian Princes. In this Magnificent Burying-place are repoſited 26 Marble Coffins, bound about with Gilt Braſs, and ſupported on Lions orderly diſpoſed in the ſeveral ſides of it; 8 of theſe contain the Royal Corps of the Kings and Queens hereafter mentioned, *viz.* In the firſt, is the Body of *Charles*, the 5th. Emperor, and firſt King of that Name in *Spain*. In the Second, is the Body of King *Philip* the Second, his Son. In the third, of *Philip* the Third, Fifth Son, but Succeſſor of of *Philip* the Second. In the Fourth, of *Philip* the 4th. Eldeſt Son, and Succeſſor to *Philip* the Third. Theſe lie all on the Goſpel ſide of the Altar. Oppoſite unto them on the Epiſtle-ſide, lie their ſeveral Queens by whom they had Iſſue: For example, againſt *Charles* the Fifth, is placed the Empreſs and Queen of *Spain*, *Donna Iſabella* his only Wife, Daughter to King *Emanuel*

el of *Portugal*; and the Queen *Donna Maria*, who was Daughter to the Catholick Monarchs *Ferdinando* and *Isabella*. Over against *Philip* the Second, lies the Queen *Donna Anna* his fourth Wife, Daughter to *Maximilian* the Emperour, second of that Name, and of the Empereſs *Donna Maria*, Siſter to the ſaid King. Againſt *Philip* the Third is placed *Donna Margarita*, his only Wife, and Daughter of *Charles* Arch-Duke of *Auſtria*, and of *Mary* Daughter of the Duke of *Bavaria*, and Niece of the Emperour *Ferdinand*, Brother of *Charles* the Fifth. Againſt *Philip* the Fourth, *Donna Iſabel* of *Bourbon*, his firſt Wife, Daughter of *Henry* the Fourth, and of *Madonna Maria Di Medici*, King and Queen of *France*. Theſe eight Bodies only are as yet depoſited in the *Pantheon*: For the reſt of the Blood-Royal of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and the Queens that have had no Iſſue, there is another Place over againſt the *Sacriſtia* of the *Pantheon* (a very Noble Vault) and within the Portal or Entrance of the *Pantheon* it ſelf, where this Epitaph preſents it ſelf to the goers in.

D. O. M.
Locus Sacer Mortalitatis Exuviis
Catholicorum Regum,
A Reſtauratore Vitæ, cujus Aræ Max.
Auſtriaca adhuc pietate ſubjacent
Optatum Diem expectantium
Quam poſthumam Sedem ſibi, & ſuis
Carolus Cæſarum *Maximus in Votis habuit*;
Philippus *Secundus Regum prudentiſſimus elegit*;
Philippus *Tertius vere pius inchoavit*;
Philippus IV.
Clementia, Conſtantia, Religione Magnus
Auxil. Ornavit, abſolvit
Anno Dom. 1654.

The

The chief Architects of this Incomparable Work, were, *Don Juan Baptiſta Creccucio* Brother to the Cardinal *Creccucio*; and *Pedro Lizargarate*, a *Biſcayner*.

The Catalogue that follows contains the Names of the Principal Maſters for Architecture, and Painting, &c. That were concerned about the whole work of this ſo famed, but now unfortunate Eſcurial.

Fran. Antonio de villa Caſtine, Chief Architect.
Michael Cuſin, a Flemming.
Lavinia Fontana, Daughter of *Proſpero Fontana*, of Bolonia.
Frederico Zucaro.
Dominico Griego.
Leonardo de Vinci.
Luqueto, or *Lucas Cangioſo*, an Italian.
Bergamaſco.
Peregrin de Peregrini of *Milan* excellent in *Freſco.*
Luis de Caravayal.
Miguel Barroſo.
Juan Baptiſta Monegro.
Don Joſeph de Ribera, or *Spannolette.*
Frederico Barroſo.
Antonio Corregio or *Acorezo.*
Raphael de Vrbino. } Famous in *Groteſco*
Juan de Andeus. } and *Bruteſco.*
Jacobo de Parma.
Paulo Veroneſe.
Titian.
Tintoretto.

Antonio

Antonio Vandike.
Pedro Paulo Ruben.
Lucas Jordan.
Guarchino.
Andrea del Sarto.
Michael Angelo Bonarota.
Anibal Caracio.
Fran. Sebaſtian del piombo.
Guido Boloneſe.
Jorjon de Caſtel Franco.
Bordonnon the Maſter of *Titian.*
Andreas Chavon.
Juan Fernandes Mudo.
Maſaſio the Maſter of *Michael Angelo.*
Geronimo Boſco.
Carlos Veroneſe.
Dario Ojonico.
Guido Boloneſe.
Baſan.
Diego Velaſques.
Cavallero Maximo.
Antonio Campi of *Cremona.*
Mario.
Granelo and *Fabricio* ſons of *Bergamaſco,* excellent in *Bruteſco.*
Joachimo Flamenco.
Sebaſtian de Herrera.
Franciſco Urbino.
Parmeſano.
Palma.
Bartolomeo Carducho.

FINIS.